

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

Published monthly by:
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Copy deadline the 5th of each month
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Editorials

AWACS

Congress must "veto" the AWACS and other arms proposal! The five Airborne Warning and Control Systems aircraft (AWACS) which are able to view all of Israel, over 1,100 Sidewinder missile, the same missile recently used by the U.S. Navy to shoot down two attacking Libyan fighters, and the fuel tanks and tankers which would vastly increase the range of the F-15 fighters sold to Saudi Arabia by the Carter Administration, must not be sent to Saudi Arabia. The sale of these would be a potential foreign policy disaster.

Because you care about America, we appeal to you to help our government avert this political and military blunder that will jeopardize our own national interests.

And because you care about Israel, we appeal to you to help protect this small nation from perhaps the greatest military threat of the past thirty years.

This coincidence of timing forces us to remember another autumn just eight years ago. The date was October 6, 1973-Yom Kippur. And on that holiest of days, as unsuspecting Israeli Jews prayed for the atonement of their sins, Egypt and Syria opened a surprise coordinated attack on the Golan Heights and along the Suez Canal.

You remember, of course. None of us can ever forget that moment of Arab treachery.

We must not lose this fight! Israel's security depends on the outcome! So does America's. We must not allow our technological advantage over the Soviet Union to be jeopardized in any way. The experience of Iran remains fresh in our minds... what if a Saudi version of Khomeini overthrew the House of Saud with Soviet help? (Remember the greatest danger to the Saudi throne comes from within.) How long would America's secret, sophisticated technology remain secret? How long would it take Soviet military scientists to strip our defenses bare?

Take a moment of your time to express this in writing to your Congressmen NOW!

Let us hope and pray that this New Year will be the beginning of Peace throughout the Middle East and the rest of the world. We wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Egypt in the Balance

Anwar Sadat has ruled Egypt for 11 years, and ruled it wisely and well, we believe. But he is no democrat, obviously.

Unfortunately, Sadat's enlightened attitude toward Israel and the peace treaty he signed with it have never been accepted by many Egyptians. His progressivism has earned him the wrath of Moslem fundamentalists who, oblivious to the tragedy of Iran, want to install a government run under strict Islamic religious law. His anti-communism has fed the opposition of others (i.e. the recent expulsion of the Soviet Embassy.)

Fortunately for Egypt — and possibly the whole Middle East — Sadat is resolved that what happened in Iran will not be repeated in Egypt, even if that means curbing freedom of speech and press and religious and political association.

If the Shah had understood as well how to handle the various elements poised to tear Iran apart, instead of making martyrs of them in his torture chambers while he dreamed imperial dreams, Ayatollah Khomeini might still be in exile in France.

Under Anwar Sadat, there is little political freedom in Egypt today, as we in the West know it. But if Sadat should fail or fall, the very hope of such eventual freedom might very well go with him.

לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו

A Happy New Year

The Time Is Now

As we approach the Jewish New Year, we look forward with hope and dedication to many new and exciting Charlotte communal events.

Our new project, which is at the forefront of all our minds, is but one such event in our community which is helping to bring us together. Conjointly, Track II is helping to bring us together. Topical meetings are being held with a startling initial component, many of those attending who have lived in this community for any number of lengths of time needed to be introduced to others in the room.

Recently, the Charlotte Jewish Foundation sponsored a weekend workshop at Wildacres. (You can read a specific account of what happened elsewhere in this issue.) That which I want to discuss is the need which arose from one session, more joint Adult Programming.

This is a topic which has also been recently discussed as it pertains to Youth and Senior Adults. We are discovering that many of our children don't know each other unless they have a specific reason to. Today, when young people seek direction and support in their search for personal identity, when our parents require help in leading lives of dignity and purpose, the role of all Jewish Communal Institutions is more important than ever.

This concern has been an omni-present goal of the Jewish Welfare Board, a national organization, to the extent that a few years ago the following statement was placed on the top of their letterhead, "Involved with the quality of Jewish Life...Worldwide." Though we too need to be concerned about our people worldwide, we must begin to show our concern at a local level.

Kathy and I, wish all a happy and healthy New Year and an easy fast.

Harold Cohen
Director, JCC

Greetings From the Academy

Summer has passed and the days grow shorter. The sounds and the colors of nature tell us about changes in the world and in our own lives. With the changes of the seasons, we as Jews are also entering a new season of our spirit. This time of year reminds us of our changing lives and fortunes, of the changes going on around us and within us. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, we reflect on the past year, our victories and our generous acts. But we must look also at our failures within ourselves and with our fellow man.

At this time of year, we must remember that true happiness can be ours only when we have the respect and love of our friends, and peace of mind knowing that we have done our best. We know that with happiness comes the knowledge of how to forgive. For not to forgive leaves us uncreative; love and happiness an empty shell; our social usefulness is no more. We must learn to dwell on not what once was, but upon what yet can be if we only let it.

Let us all dare to reach for a higher fulfillment in serving others. As we strive for the best within ourselves, may each of us become examples of all that is good and kind and loving in our world.

The children, parents and board of the North Carolina Hebrew Academy join me in wishing you a year of health and happiness; a year of Shalom.

Robert Bernhardt,
President Hebrew Academy

Rosh Hashana... Yom Kippur:
The beginning of a New Year with new hopes and dreams for health, prosperity and peace in the world.

We wish for you and your loved ones what we wish for our own families... for our children's children. Shalom

This is the Year That Will Be

A number of years ago there was a TV program called, "That Was The Week That Was". It focused a cynical eye on events of the preceding 7 days and left viewers with a sense of dismay at the general state of modern civilization.

At this New Years time I choose not to look back critically nor at today with jaundiced perspective. Instead, this is the moment to get out my rosest-colored glasses and to gaze lovingly and longingly at the future of our community.

We, the Jews of Charlotte, as individuals, organizations and institutions have set our collective feet firmly on the path toward accomplishing the dream of every Jewish community; the dream of a vital, active, vibrant, involved community. Years of diligent work by our leaders have helped us to walk that path without looking over our shoulders in fear of being overtaken and surpassed. They have taught us that we are big enough as a community to support all the existing programs with plenty of room for each to expand and to grow as population continue to grow.

It is one thing to come to such a realization and quite another to put it into practice. Yet, that is exactly what is happening. Temple membership and financial chairpersons are meeting together to compare notes and develop better ways of reaching and enrolling members. Education chairpersons, both adult's and children's, are comparing schedules and sharing ideas with the goal of bigger and better attendance and interest in each other's programs. The Wildacres Foundation-Presidents' Council Retreat, described in detail in this issue of the paper, saw representatives from three temples, JCC, Academy, Federation and Foundation devote three days — almost 18 actual work hours — to the details of the Project and then try to find another weekend in October to do it again.

So, goodbye to doubters and backward glancers; goodbye to the years and the problems that were. Together we move into the year that will be; our eyes see beyond to the years yet to come and the fulfillment they will bring.

Marvin Bienstock
Executive Director
Charlotte Jewish Federation
and Foundation

JCC Closings

- Oct. 7 - closed at 5 p.m.
- Oct. 8 - reopens at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 12 - closed at 5 p.m.
- Oct. 13 - closed
- Oct. 14 - reopens at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 19 - closed at 5 p.m.
- Oct. 20 - closed
- Oct. 21 - reopens at 7 p.m.

